

IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please amend/cancel/add the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (New): An EKG drain structure comprising at least one core element substantially enclosed by at least one sheath, wherein said at least one core element comprises channels for drainage or in plane flow transport of fluid, and wherein the sheath is associated with at least one conducting element.

Claim 21 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 20 wherein said at least one core element comprises a reinforcing core of geosynthetic enclosing void channels for drainage or in plane flow.

Claim 22 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 20 wherein sheath is a substantially closed or enclosing structure suited to contain or retain within it one or more core elements.

Claim 23 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 20 wherein said at least one core element or combination of elements is in direct contact with the sheath over substantially all of its outer surface or their combined outer surface.

Claim 24 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 20 wherein said sheath is porous or porous in sections.

Claim 25 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 20 wherein said conducting element is composite metallic, comprising metal or metal powder dispersed in a solid carrier, or is conducting non-metallic, such as carbon, a conducting polymer or composite thereof.

Claim 26 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 20 wherein said conducting element is in the form of a filament, fibre, strand, wire, layer of shaped solid or hollow form, in close association with the sheath.

Claim 27 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 20 wherein said conducting element is comprised as conducting material dispersed throughout the sheath such that then sheath itself forms the conducting element.

Claim 28 (New): An EKG drain structure as defined in claim 20 as an electrode to serve a drainage function.

Claim 29 (New): Method of treating a substrate by improving its consolidation, comprising positioning a plurality of electrodes, at least one of which is an EKG structure as defined in claim 20 in situ and applying an electric field between the electrodes.

Claim 30 (New): An EKG structure comprising a porous geosynthetic sheath substantially enclosing a core of substrate to be treated, wherein said sheath is associated with at least one conducting element comprising a first electrode, and wherein at least one second electrode is inserted into the core through an opening in the sheath.

Claim 31 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 30 wherein said sheath takes the form of a bag, tube or container.

Claim 32 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 30 wherein said conducting element is composite metallic, comprising metal or metal powder dispersed in a solid carrier, or is conducting non-metallic, such as carbon, a conducting polymer or composite thereof.

Claim 33 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 30 wherein said conducting element is in the form of a filament, fibre, strand, wire, layer of shaped solid or hollow form, in close association with the sheath.

Claim 34 (New): An EKG drain structure in accordance with claim 30 wherein said conducting element is comprised as conducting material dispersed throughout the sheath such that the sheath itself forms the conducting element.

Claim 35 (New): Use of the EKG structure as defined in claim 30 as an electrode to serve a drainage function.

Claim 36 (New): Method of treating a substrate by improving its consolidation comprising enclosing a substrate to be treated within an EKG structure as defined in claim 30 and applying an electric field between the first and second electrodes.